

(Draft – Awaiting Approval)
**MINUTES OF THE
HEALTH REFORM TASK FORCE**

Monday, December 19, 2016 – 1:00 p.m. – Room 30 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Allen Christensen, Senate Chair
Rep. James A. Dunnigan, House Chair
Sen. J. Stuart Adams
Sen. Gene Davis
Sen. Peter C. Knudson
Rep. Rebecca Chavez-Houck
Rep. Francis D. Gibson
Rep. Marie H. Poulson
Rep. Dean Sanpei

Members Absent:

Rep. Michael S. Kennedy
Rep. Edward H. Redd

Staff Present:

Mr. Mark D. Andrews, Policy Analyst
Ms. Cathy Dupont, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Lori Rammell, Legislative Assistant

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Task Force Business

Chair Christensen called the meeting to order at 1:28 p.m. Rep. Kennedy was excused from the meeting.

MOTION: Sen. Knudson moved to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2016, meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Adams absent for the vote.

2. Federal Healthcare Reform

Ms. Dupont distributed "Letter to governors and commissioners on healthcare reform" and "Letter to Republican Governors Association on Medicaid" and explained that the purpose of the letters from members of the United States Congress was to solicit state input on anticipated actions by the administration of the newly elected president in relation to the federal Affordable Care Act.

Ms. Tanji Northrup, Assistant Commissioner, Utah Insurance Department, reported that the Insurance Department is preparing a draft response to the letters that should be available for the governor's review by the first week of January 2017. She indicated that the Insurance Commissioner is concerned that repeal of the Affordable Care Act's individual mandate would harm Utah's insurance market. She reported that the United States Department of Health and Human Services finalized a significant number of new rules on Friday, including rules on network adequacy and expanding age rating for children.

Rep. Dunnigan requested that Ms. Northrup provide comments in the department's response regarding pre-existing condition coverage and market reforms for the small employer market.

MOTION: Rep. Dunnigan moved that the chairs of the task force send a letter to Sen. Orrin Hatch and other applicable committees in Congress with the task force's input on issues regarding health care reform. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Nate Checketts, Deputy Director, Utah Department of Health, stated that while this letter is one of the first opportunities for the Legislature to weigh in on these issues, he believes there will be additional opportunities in the future. Some of the items he said the department is considering commenting on include flexibility in the waiver process, how Medicaid determines mandatory and optional benefits, calculations for block grants, and transition plans for individuals.

Mr. Kevin Burt, Department of Workforce Services, discussed mandatory Medicaid policy changes.

Rep. Dunnigan requested that anyone with information to be included in the response to Congress submit that information to the task force's staff.

3. Workgroup Report

Rep. Dunnigan reported on the progress of the Managed Care Workgroup and the Network Adequacy/Surprise Billing Workgroup. He said the draft legislation being considered by the joint workgroups is not aggressive, but is an incremental approach that provides a framework for addressing some of the issues, including network adequacy and provider directory standards.

Rep. Dunnigan reported that the telehealth workgroup has not met since its last report, though there may be some draft legislation coming from that workgroup as well.

Rep. Dunnigan requested that those who have ideas they would like included in the task force's letter to Sen. Hatch should submit them to Ms. Dupont as soon as possible.

Sen. Davis requested legislation be drafted to reauthorize the task force. Rep. Dunnigan reported that he has already requested that legislation. Sen. Davis requested that he be added as a sponsor on that legislation.

4. Adjourn

Sen. Davis moved to adjourn the meeting. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Chair Christensen adjourned the meeting at 2:11p.m.